

legislation will give families and small businesses added certainty and keep us on the path to greater prosperity, and it brings

us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5765 September 23, 2004

"The Lord, the Lord God is gracious and compassionate, patient, abounding in kindness and faithfulness, assuring love for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and granting pardon."

EXODUS: 34:6-7

On Yom Kippur, Jews around the world gather to mark the holiest day of the year, the Sabbath of Sabbaths. Jewish tradition teaches that on this day, we receive God's mercy through acts of atonement, prayer, and charity. During this season of prayer and intense reflection, may you find com-

fort in God's promise, which has never been broken and which is renewed in our time.

Our trust in God gives all Americans great purpose. As we are called to acts of compassion and mercy, we come closer to God and serve a cause greater than ourselves. May you trust God's faithfulness to all people, and may you be blessed with a good and happy New Year.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks on Relief Efforts for Beslan, Russia September 24, 2004

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. The barbaric terrorist attack on a Russian school 3 weeks ago sickened the world. America grieves with the people of Russia, and we pray for the innocent victims and their families in Beslan.

In America, we've witnessed an outpouring of compassion for the Russian people. Today I'm joined by Sue Huddle and her students from John Quincy Adams Elementary School in Washington, DC. Thank you all for coming. They helped organize a toy and school supply drive for the children of Beslan.

Kelsey O'Marra is here too. She is a seventh grader at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland. She helped lead a school fundraiser to help the victims

of Beslan. Kelsey, thank you for your leadership and your compassion.

These children show the sympathy and compassion and generosity of our whole Nation. I'm also joined by Marty Evans, the President of the American Red Cross. Thanks for coming, Marty.

Marty Evans. Yes, sir.

The President. The Red Cross is working hard to make sure the people in Beslan get the help they need. Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world have already received \$680,000 in donations for aid to Russia, enough to provide emergency medical care and counseling for 2,000 people. I want to thank Marty for her leadership and her tireless efforts. I thank all Americans who have contributed